

OFFERS SOLUTION OF TOBACCO CASE

Gen. Townes Suggests Settlement by Commission.

PROPOSED PLAN WOULD NOT HELP

Former Consul-General in Richmond Interview Says Country Demands Restoration of Natural Trade Conditions. Would Divide Indebtedness.

Cutting through the maze of technicalities surrounding the attempted reorganization of the American Tobacco Company, General W. T. Townes, former Consul-General of the United States to Brazil, in an interview at the Jefferson Hotel last night, said that "what the country needs is a condition that restores natural competition in trade." General Townes was organizer and president of the \$10,000,000 Porto Rican-American Tobacco Company, which controls practically all the tobacco industry of Porto Rico. The requisite conditions of competition, intended by the spirit and intent of the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, can be brought about, in his opinion, by the appointment of an able and impartial commission, named by the court. It would be the duty of such a commission to represent all interests involved and to work out a solution of the difficulty.

General Townes outlines a plan to take care of the bonded debt of the trust, which would involve its distribution among the several independent companies, which would be reorganized, on some equitable basis.

General Proposition.

Several independent tobacco manufacturers as well as some of the subsidiary companies of the American Tobacco Company, are opposing the plan tentatively agreed upon between the officers of the trust, on the one hand, and Attorney-General Wickham and Judge Lacombe, on the other. It is the contention of the Richardson Tobacco Company (subsidiary) that to subdivide the trust into three companies, as proposed, leaving the American in existence with \$170,000,000, and giving to each of three estates a capital of more than \$100,000,000, would not restore conditions of competition. Judge Lacombe, on the other hand, is of the opinion that the Richardson Tobacco Company, of New York (independent), thinks that such settlement "would legalize a reign of terror and that conditions would be worse in the future than they have ever been."

J. Pierpont Morgan is quoted as saying of this situation: "You can't unscramble an egg."

Urged Co-operation.

General Townes said last night at the Jefferson:

"Foreseeing that these very conditions of contention would arise ultimately before agreement on a plan of settlement of the tobacco trust by decision of the Supreme Court, I wrote several months ago a letter to the secretary of the Board of Trade of one of our important cities in the heart of the tobacco belt, urging that body to take action at once by the appointment of a committee to go before the court at New York, with able counsel, to urge that former conditions of competition be restored. I urged that the trust would make a vigorous fight to retain its autonomy, with all the power that necessarily went therewith; that it would naturally fight to retain its monopolistic position."

"It seems that my prediction has been fulfilled, and the proposed plan of settlement, as tentatively agreed upon, would not restore competition in any quarter of the United States. As Mr. Surburg says, the sanction of the proposed plan by the highest court would legalize robbery and take away from the people the right of redress from insufferable wrongs."

Broken Shell.

"Mr. Morgan thinks I can't unscramble an egg. We can at least reply that we have already broken the shell of a very bad egg, and it doesn't make it any more palatable to divide it into three parts, although it may be 'well shaken before taken.' What the country needs is conditions that restore natural competition in trade. I take it that such was the spirit and intent of the decision of the Supreme Court."

"About a year ago I was in correspondence with the strongest cigarette and tobacco company of Germany and Cairo, Egypt, who carefully investigated at that time the advisability of establishing a branch of their manufacturing business in the United States. They finally decided that the tobacco trust was too powerful in the United States for them to undertake the business in this country, although they themselves had something like \$20,000,000 invested in their business in those countries. Here was a chance to build up competition in the trade, and, although I assure you that the matter was at the time seriously considered by the parties, they finally took the advice of their New York bankers, who advised them that the trust was too strong for that country to think of competing, and with new and unknown brands of manufactured goods. So the scheme fell through."

Would Help All.

"With an effectual dissolution of the trust, every class of citizens, producers of leaf tobacco and consumers of manufactured goods, would be benefited. Competition in the purchase of leaf would as surely advance its price as would manufactured goods decline in price."

"These the masses of the people would be benefited and the trust barons, holding hundreds of millions of tobacco trust securities, would cease to reap their harvest of plunder of the people."

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JOIN IN PEACE CELEBRATION

North and South Meet to Dedicate Monument in Atlanta.

Atlanta, Ga., October 9.—To dedicate a monument commemorating the famous mission of peace undertaken by the Old Guard City Guards, of Atlanta, 1879, more than 2,000 soldiers, representing many of the crack military organizations of the North and South, have arrived here. The day was given over to the reception of the visitors and to-night a reception will be held at the Auditorium Armory. The chief event of the peace celebration will be the dedication of the monument in Piedmont Park to-morrow, following an imposing parade.

A notable incident occurred this afternoon when the officers of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, the oldest military organization in America, decorated graves of the Confederate dead in Oakland Cemetery. The wreath was brought from Boston. Pantheion Hall, the home of the Ancient and Honorable, is worked by white men, while above, on a background of blue, the wreath of the North and South is symbolized by two hands clasped over the word "Peace." Beneath is the inscription, "Gravestone of Liberty, A. and H. A. of Massachusetts."

In the buff and blue of the Revolutionary period, the Putnam phalanx of Hartford, Conn., arrived this morning, together with the Governor's Footguard, accompanying Governor Johnson E. Baldwin, of Connecticut, and staff, and Mayor E. L. Smith, of Hartford. Governor Baldwin will act as the representative of the East in the unveiling ceremony to-morrow. The South will be represented by General Horner Hoke Smith, of Georgia, who is prevented from participating by a recent death in his family.

LYNCHING THREATENED

Covington Again Wrought Up to High Pitch of Excitement.

Covington, La., October 9.—Another lynching is threatened within this county as the result of a brutal attack made to-night upon Annie McKelney, a school teacher, at the Covington High School, by an unknown negro. The school population has not been wrought to such a fever of excitement since the lynching of Frank Walker here on Sunday, August 13.

This evening Miss McKelney, who is the daughter of William McKelney, a prosperous farmer, was on her way home from school when she was waylaid by a negro on the road leading from Calm to Mortonsville. The negro, a white man, and just as she was being overpowered, Frank Wynn, a farmer, came upon the scene. The negro, frightened by the approach of Wynn's wagon, hurried his victim to the ground and leaped to the fence, darted across Wynn's meadow, and gave the alarm and in less than five minutes a mob of twenty or more of farmers, all armed with shotguns, had followed the negro to the scene of the crime. Late to-night the posse was riding the country in the vicinity of where the attack occurred, and there are open threats that if the negro is found he will be shot down.

Miss McKelney's condition is serious. Besides her injuries, she has a serious shock incident to the attack, the girl was terribly bruised by the rough handling of the negro.

When the man caught the girl she struck him with her books, which she carried in a satchel. This seemed to enrage him, and he attacked her with a ferocity of a lion.

CORNELIUS BLISS DEAD

He Long Had Been Prominent in Republican Politics.

New York, October 9.—Cornelius Newton Bliss, aged seventy-eight years, a student at the prominent figures in national Republican circles, and otherwise well known as a merchant and a member of the dry goods firm of Bliss and Co., died at his home here to-night of heart disease. The end was not wholly unexpected. Mr. Bliss had been ill for a year. While death is attributed to heart failure, there had been a general heart attack, which comes of old age. Mr. Bliss was born in Fall River, Mass., in 1833. He was a member of the New York State Republican Committee. With the late Senator Platt, Senator Dewey and other representatives of New York in Republican national conventions. He refused to become a candidate for Governor in 1906, but following the national campaign, in which William McKinley was elected President, he accepted the position of Secretary of the Interior in the McKinley Cabinet. He held this post for two years and then resigned because of stress of private business. Mr. Bliss was a great friend of the cause of always active in movements for municipal reforms. For some years he was president of the American Protective League.

BRIDEGROOM A SUICIDE

Lieutenant Kills Himself Six Hours After Marriage.

San Antonio, Texas, October 9.—Scarcely six hours after he had married Miss Gladys Caruthers, Second Lieutenant John R. Lynch, Third Infantry, United States Army, killed himself at Fort San Houston to-day. The marriage ceremony was performed at 1 A. M. He was alone in his room about 7 o'clock, when two pistol shots were heard. Fellow officers, bursting through the locked door, found the man dying. One bullet penetrated the body near the heart. In the meantime he feared the first bullet would not prove fatal, and fired the second shot, the bullet passing through the roof of the mouth into the brain. No cause for the tragedy has been determined.

Lieutenant Lynch enlisted in the army as a private in Missouri in 1907. August, 1910, he became a second lieutenant. He served in the field artillery until August, 1910, when he was transferred to the Third Cavalry and assigned to Troop M. His father and sister are thought to reside in Los Angeles, Cal.

WILEY AGAIN UPHELD

German Scientists Say Benzene of Soda and Benzene Acid Are Harmful.

Washington, October 9.—A full copy of the German health decision upholding the findings of Dr. Wiley that benzene of soda and benzene acid are harmful in foods, has been received from the Agricultural Department. This decision was asked for by the State Department as the result of an application of Indiana authorities, who were engaged in a contest over a State pure food law.

The German report reviews Dr. Wiley's experiments and findings, which were overruled by the Remsen Reference Board in this country, and says:

"The Royal Scientific Deputation for Medical Affairs is likewise of the opinion that the use of benzene acid and benzene should not be permitted for the preservation of foodstuffs."

WOMEN CONFIDENT OF WINNING VOTE

Their Whirlwind Campaign for Equal Suffrage Ended.

CALIFORNIA WILL DECIDE IT TO-DAY

Question to Be Settled at Polls by Male Voters One of Vital Importance to Politics of State—Battle Has Been Vigorous, but Not of "Militant" Sort.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

San Francisco, October 9.—After a whirlwind campaign, conducted with an orderly effectiveness that rivals the most successful political campaign of "mere man" within the history of California, the Equal Suffrage Association is resting on its laurels and predicting victory to-morrow at the polls, while the anti-suffragists are no less certain that the voters will turn down the proposed amendment to the State Constitution allowing women to vote.

The campaign has been the hardest fought political contest this State ever has seen. The territory has been apportioned among the women making the night, throw-aways, posters and banners have been displayed everywhere, and for the past week San Francisco has seen the scene of speeches, rallies, and parades, while prominent women from all quarters of the United States have sought to clinch the predicted victory with eloquent oral oratory.

"Why Shouldn't My Mother Vote?"

In other parts of the State the excitement has been no less intense. The Los Angeles suffragists rivalled in zeal their sisters in San Francisco. A gigantic mass-meeting closed the campaign, and thousands of posters were distributed bearing the inscription: "Why Shouldn't My Mother Vote?"

Oakland was also the scene of pre-election enthusiasm, and reports from the vote corners of the State indicate that the women have campaigned thoroughly and been well received.

On the other side of the political fence the "antis," under the leadership of former United States Senators Frank P. Flint and Cornelius Cole, have spared no pains to mold the popular vote against the measure. They have followed the suffragettes into the people's homes with arguments against the adoption of the amendment, have sought by ridicule to sway the voters, and have organized opposition meetings wherever the women were scheduled to speak.

The opponents of the measure scoff at the women's claim to the workingman's ballot, and figure on the heavy Chinese vote to defeat the measure, as it did in 1896. They have the entire "saloon vote," and also claim the farmer vote.

Women Confident.

The women, on the other hand, expect to carry the large cities, or, at least, break even, and also predict a majority in the rural districts.

The question of equal suffrage is one of vital importance to political California. In the event that the women win at the polls to-morrow, and succeed in forcing an adoption of constitutional amendment No. 8, the new or old vote goes into immediate effect, and will add thousands of women voters to the army that will choose the heads of departments in many of California's largest cities in December.

The threat of legal interference with the women's vote—provided they get it—has been scouted by legal authorities who state that the way is clear for the feminine vote this fall should the male population vote it to-morrow. There seems to be no doubt in the minds of the lawyers that the amendment goes into effect automatically the moment it is confirmed. This will make registration on October 31 impossible, but will prove a plenty of time before December for the proper enrolment of the newly made voters.

The campaign throughout has been noticeable for its absence of the physically militant features that helped to defeat equal suffrage amendments fifteen years ago. Everywhere the workers have displayed a quiet earnestness that has won the many friends, both among the State legislators and the press, which has been noticeably lenient in dealing with the issue.

Female Spellbinders.

The women's campaign started several months ago, when Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe Watson, president of the Equal Suffrage Association, appointed delegates to propose an amalgamation of the several equal rights clubs then existing throughout the State. The proposal met with instant approval, and the organization was strengthened daily by the arrival of prominent suffragette speakers from all parts of the country. These women were sent out in search of the vote, just as the male speakers were. Their expenses were largely paid by subscriptions raised by equal rights enthusiasts throughout the United States.

Particular attention has been paid to the rural districts. The State campaign committee, under the direction of Mrs. James B. Hume, ex-president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and Miss Blanche Morse, former secretary of the same, arranged to cover even the most remote counties through their "circuit riders." They say that their "speakers" were met everywhere with courtesy and attentive interest.

Injured in Explosion.

Telluride, Col., October 9.—Seven men were injured, two seriously, to-day in an explosion of dynamite that destroyed the house of the Lewis mine, eight miles from here.

The men were fighting a fire in the mine. The injured were caught by falling timbers. The property damage is small.

STEPHENSON MADE 'CHEAP' CAMPAIGN

Expenditure of \$107,793 for \$7,500 Job Considered Small.

MIGHT HAVE USED \$200,000 OR MORE

Senator's Managers Tell What They Could Have Done Legitimately, if Their Funds Had Not Been Restricted—No Detailed Accounts Were Kept.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 9.—Out of the testimony given to-day before the United States Senate committee, which is investigating charges that bribery contributed to the election of Senator Isaac Stephenson, was developed evidence that Stephenson's campaign managers regarded the \$107,793, admittedly expended, as small compared to the \$150,000 or \$200,000 which might have been spent on a more systematic campaign. The expense of the campaign was declared to be partly due to a close fight between two factions in the Republican party in Wisconsin, one headed by Senator Robert M. La Follette, and the other by Senator Stephenson, a Regular Republican.

Supporter of Taft.

As showing Senator Stephenson's position and also as showing how he spent liberally to advertise, campaign literature was read into the record, stating that Senator Stephenson was a believer in the Roosevelt ideas, and as such was bound to support Mr. Taft for President.

The statement from Fordney Sackett, one of the Stephenson campaign managers, that \$150,000 or \$200,000 might have been spent in the campaign, brought forth comment from Senator Atlee Pomerene, of Ohio, a member of the committee. "If \$107,000 is not enough to nominate a United States Senator in Wisconsin, how much is? And what could you do with \$200,000 legitimately to secure a man a position with a \$7,500 annual salary?" asked Senator Pomerene.

"We could have been more systematic," answered Sackett. "There are approximately 400,000 Republicans in the State. Had we the money, we should have personally canvassed each vote, this I estimate, would have cost from \$150,000 to \$200,000. As it was, with our means limited to a little over \$100,000, we could not see each voter and had to get along the best we could."

Senator Stephenson's vote, it was shown, was 56,800 out of a total of 224,000 votes cast.

Answering questions bearing directly on the charges against Senator Stephenson, Sackett testified:

That money out of Senator Stephenson's fund had been given to State officials, as in the instance of State Game Warden J. W. Stone, who was given \$2,500 to work up sentiment in favor of the Senator.

Paid to Candidates.

That money was paid to candidates for office, as in the case of seven candidates for the Legislature, three of whom were elected. Although the three men elected afterwards voted for Senator Stephenson, the witness declared, it was not known when the money was given them that they were candidates.

That no complete detailed accounts of the campaign expenses were kept, and that all records after the campaign were destroyed.

The statements contained in this testimony were declared in the original charges presented to the United States Senate to show violations of the Wisconsin statutes.

The assertion that part of Senator Stephenson's heavy expenses were due to his desire to make it generally known that he was a supporter of Mr. Taft, was denied by Sackett when asked, in explaining an advertisement bill of \$12,616, was required to produce before the committee one of the advertisements.

JUDGMENT IS VACATED

Action in Famous Contempt Case Follows Finding of Supreme Court.

Washington, D. C., October 9.—The District of Columbia Supreme Court today vacated its judgment in the original Bucke case, which was a junction of contempt cases against President Theodore Roosevelt, Vice-President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, in accordance with the decision of Supreme Court of the United States handed down last May. The Supreme Court held that the jail sentence of President Roosevelt was illegal because the defendants were found guilty of criminal contempt in a civil case.

This decision, however, did not bar the District court from instituting criminal contempt proceedings on its own motion, and this was promptly done by Justice Wright. There have been various technical skirmishes in the new proceedings, and it is expected that hearing will be given within the next few weeks.

PROPOSED LOAN RATIFIED

Nicaragua Will Get Many Millions of American Money.

Managua, Nicaragua, October 9.—The Nicaraguan Congress, by a vote of 35 to 6, today ratified the proposed loan of \$1,000,000 at 90-10. It was negotiated by Ernest H. Wanda, the American financial adviser to the Nicaraguan government, with Brown Brothers and 2 and W. Seligman & Co., of New York.

Congress also approved a temporary loan of \$1,500,000 from the same bankers.

The plans include a reform of the monetary system, the establishment of an American bank and the construction of a transcontinental railroad.

M'NAMARAS' TRIAL BEGINS TOMORROW

Already Judge Has Weeded Out First Venire of 125 Men.

SAME DEFENSE IN BOTH CASES

Jury Will Be Told That Gas and Fire, Not Dynamite and Fire, Destroyed Los Angeles Times Building—Model of Newspaper Plant in Court.

Los Angeles, October 9.—The trial of the McNamara brothers, both of whom are under indictment for murder in connection with the explosion which wrecked the Los Angeles Times, on October 1, 1910, virtually was begun here to-day before Superior Judge Walter Bordwell, although, perhaps, nobody except District Attorney John D. Frederick, knew whether John J. or James B. McNamara would sit in the prisoner's chair when the case formally is called day after to-morrow. Indications pointed to James B. McNamara as the first man to be tried.

Of the 125 men named in the first venire of prospective jurors, 122 responded to a call for preliminary examination, and at the close of court Judge Bordwell had weeded this number down to forty-five, who were instructed to return Wednesday.

All venemen were excused who were able to show that their business would suffer if they became jurors in a trial of long duration.

Will Have Same Defense.

Whoever man goes on trial Wednesday, the defense, it was said to-night, will be the same—that the Times building was destroyed by gas and fire, and not by dynamite and fire.

Out beyond the hills north of town there has been conducted a series of secret explosive experiments. Repeated discharges of gas and dynamite have plowed up the earth in order that any difference in the action of the explosives might be shown. The results of these experiments, spectators at the trial will see a miniature business block, complete to the most minute detail, set on a table before the jury. The structure is a model of the Los Angeles Times building, with one side cut away to show the printing press, linotype machines, desks and all the machinery of a great newspaper office. By this model the defense hopes to demonstrate the effects of the explosion in accordance with its theory.

There will not be a session of court to-morrow, because of a State election on proposed constitutional amendments. "Unsuccessful Career."

Sitting in a corridor just outside his cell in the county jail, John J. McNamara, secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, briefly sketched of himself and his brother, James B. McNamara.

"I was born in Cincinnati, December 23, 1876," he said, "and I am the oldest of six children living, although there were ten children originally. I attended the common schools in Cincinnati until I was twelve years old, and then took a three-year course in a business college."

"Nothing of any importance happened to me until the panic began in 1892, when I turned my hand to anything and everything to keep the pot boiling, as they say."

"I did my first bridgework at Cincinnati in 1892, joining the union the next year. I was in 1898 and 1904, I visited various sections of the Middle West, following my trade and working on steel bridges, viaducts and similar structures."

"I have held all of the offices in local unions, particularly in those of Cleveland, and have attended all the conventions of the International Association since 1902. I was elected second vice-president at the convention at Kansas City in 1903, and was chosen secretary-treasurer at Toronto in 1904. I have held that office ever since."

"The last building I worked on was the Rockefeller structure in Cleveland. I left that job to go to Toronto, and it was held open for me if I wanted to go back, but I didn't, as I had been made secretary-treasurer and had my time fully taken up with the duties of that office."

"The offices of the International Association were in New York when I was first elected. Later, for sentimental reasons, I was instrumental in having them moved to Cleveland. Two years after the offices were removed there, another change was made to Indianapolis, for the reason that so many labor organizations had their international headquarters there."

"I never planned my life far ahead. The work I am an ironworker probably precludes such planning, for such a man does not know when he leaves home in the morning that he will return at night. It probably tends towards fatalism."

Admitted to Bar.

"I wanted to learn of the organization in which I held office, particularly the legal end of it, and so I attended the Indianapolis College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1909."

"There is little else about my life except my arrest. I am an inveterate reader, and always have been, of books treating with economics and industrial matters."

James B. McNamara, who sat quietly by while his brother talked, also was born in Cincinnati. His birthday was held open for me if I wanted to go to school, and then learned the printer's trade, which he has followed almost continuously ever since, working in job offices in Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati and other cities.

"Unlike me," said John J. McNamara, "my brother has never been especially active in trades union affairs."

WAR ON UNRIPE FRUIT

Government Prepares to Confiscate Improper Shipments.

Washington, October 9.—The Department of Agriculture has prepared for confiscation of any shipments of unripe oranges or other unripe fruit from Florida. Secretary Wilson, who has been in communication with the Florida agricultural authorities, announced to-day that any attempts to ship artificially ripened fruit out of Florida, or to "process" unripe fruit on its journey to the North would be the signal for government activity.

A shortage in citrus fruits has developed throughout the North, with accompanying high prices. Much of this shortage is due, it is claimed, to the enforcement of the Florida State law prohibiting the shipment of unripe fruit, and the Federal pure food decision, which prohibits the transportation of artificially ripened or colored fruit.

The Agricultural Department is prepared to act under the pure food law. Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, which has jurisdiction over the matter, stated to-day that if advised of any such shipments, inspectors would examine the fruit at destination and take any necessary action.

"Fruit may be picked green and ripened by natural processes without counting on the pure food regulations," said Dr. Wiley. "Green fruit ripened by the 'sweating process,' with the aid of chemicals, or by transportation in steam heated cars, cannot be transported without violation of the pure food regulations."

The order against the artificial ripening of fruit was issued a year ago. It is claimed that it has had the effect of holding back early citrus fruits from the North. Florida State authorities and fruit growers and shippers who are conforming to its provisions have asked the Agricultural Department to see that it is rigidly enforced.

INVITATION TO NATION

Extended by All-South Conference Through President Taft.

Memphis, Tenn., October 9.—To the nation, through a telegram sent to President Taft, the All-South Conference to-day invited citizens of the United States to travel through the South and the Southwest in going to the two Panama Expositions to be held in California in 1915.

The All-South Conference, managed by the Southern Commercial Congress, was named chairman of the committee that sent the following telegram to the President:

"Recognizing your statesmanlike interest in the South and your unvarying friendship, as shown by your public acts, and the fact that the All-South session at Memphis, sends greetings to the nation through you as President of a united people. The South as a whole is proud that it and its prospects should be more fully understood by the nation at large."

The All-South Conference therefore invited the nation to visit the South during the semi-centennial years of 1911 to 1915, that the nation may come to know the South as it really is, and in recovery the South has made a most helpful advancement, unusually healthful conditions, educational progress, industrial enterprise and agricultural leadership.

"The heart of the South is warm with national impulses. To see the South as it really is, and to ask to have our progress measured by actual sight, rather than by statistics."

Similar telegrams are to be sent to the Governors of all States.

DELUGE OF MOTIONS

Supreme Court Hears Many When It Convenes After Recess.

Washington, D. C., October 9.—A deluge of motions from sixty-odd attorneys met the Supreme Court to-day, after a four months' recess. The court then adjourned until to-morrow, when it will begin hearing cases.

Prominent among the many motions for early consideration were those involving the so-called Louisiana and Missouri rate cases, involving the question of State regulation of public commerce, the leasing of public lands, consolidation of Presbyterian churches throughout the country, and constitutionality of the naturalization law of 1906.

Attorneys for the Commonwealth of Virginia asked the court to "speed the cause" in the suit of the Commonwealth against the Virginia State debt, which latter to bear a portion of the Virginia State debt at the time West Virginia became a State. The Supreme Court has handed down its opinion holding West Virginia should pay a portion of the debt, but it has not issued its mandate requiring West Virginia to do so.

HUGE DISCREPANCY FOUND

It Is Revealed by Inventory of Washington Navy Yard.

Washington, D. C., October 9.—A discrepancy of over \$2,287,271 was found by the material on hand and that called for by the books of the Washington Navy Yard, was shown by the inventory of this yard just completed, according to an announcement by Secretary of the Navy Meyer to-day.

The discrepancy is attributed to loose bookkeeping methods, which Secretary Meyer set out some time ago to correct.

The Washington yard was the last to have the new accounting system established, the Boston, New York Philadelphia, Portsmouth, N. H., Puget Sound, Mare Island, Charleston, S. C., Cavite and Olongapo yards preceding Washington.

The department officials stated explicitly that there was no indication whatever that moral turpitude was involved in the discrepancy, and that it undoubtedly was due to the antiquated bookkeeping methods.

SUGGESTS CONFERENCE

Texas Governor Seeks Means to Prevent Depreciation of Cotton Prices.

Austin, Tex., October 9.—Suggesting that the depreciation in the price of cotton is not justified by the supply and proposing that a conference between Governors and Commissioners of Agriculture of Southern States be held with a view to preventing price depreciation, Governor Colquitt to-day sent a telegram to Governors of Southern States recommending the plan. Governor Colquitt believes, he says, that Texas, as the chief cotton producing State, should take the lead in the matter.

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STATE FAIR LIKE BIG CIRCUS; GETS PUBLIC'S VOTE

Gates Flung Open on Best Show Ever Given in Virginia.

HOWARD LE VAN CIRCLES ABOVE

All Eyes Turned Skyward as Three Performers in Air Dazzle Thousands by Daring Feats—Grounds Filled With Exhibits That Surpass All Seen Before.

With no special feature overshadowing any others, but with all features especially good, the Virginia State Fair Association threw wide its gates at 9 o'clock yesterday morning, and—on unofficial estimate—entertained about 5,000 visitors through the day.

President Henry Fairfax and ex-President Henry C. Stuart, who were on the grounds early and continuously, were much impressed with the opening day, pleased with the character and number of the exhibits. Many people were waiting at the gates when they were flung open, but the majority of the people went out in the afternoon, in time to be present for the races, which were of high class.

In addition to the staged attractions, the free features of the day were the simultaneous ascension of the Curtiss type biplane, in the hands of Howard LeVan, the parachute drops by Professor Hutcherson and the flight of the dirigible balloon by Professor Crew.

LeVan, in the latter part of the evening, made two test flights, and then, in regular flight, circled the grounds and waited his way out over the fields to the northwest. He rose to a height of about 800 feet, and in his aerial evolutions attracted much attention. Around him the dirigible moved along its air path, and from the heights above Hutcherson, clinging to a frail rope, dropped to terra firma six parachutes. His descents appeared easy—as most descents are—but they looked more dangerous. Twice he went up and came down, each time alighting softly and gracefully on the enclosed grounds.

At the same time beneath, the Victor's band, a free attraction, played stirring tunes, and trapeze artists and tumblers labored in their art. Horses were racing around the one-mile track, and from Midway came the belated sound of Bedlam turned loose.

There was more than the eye could see in a glance, and the music and the music were changed into a medley in which the various sounds were not distinguishable one from another.

Leaden Sky Above.

Above all dropped a leaven and sad-sounding sky. But there was no pattering of rain, and all heads from the four corners of the earth were at calm. Hutcherson in his balloon was at calm, blown from his course, and each time descended into the soft grass of the field. On his second ascension he went so high that his hot-air balloon looked like a small black ball in the sky. Five parachutes dropped around him, and he emerged from the cloud swinging wide and free.

Though there was some difficulty experienced by Mr. Upton in starting several of the harness races, the card events for the first day were above the average, the entries being full, and many favorites showing. As is always the case, the two steeplechases were spectacular, and the crowd watched with bated breath and beating heart the finish at the last hurdle.

Clarence Hall Thrown.

In the first run of the hurdles the riders of Glover and Joe Mason came a cropper. The first was thrown, and the second at the second hurdle. Neither was hurt, and both returned and rode their horses from the field. But in the second hurdle race Clarence Hall, a Richmond rider, whose home is not far from the Fair Grounds, was thrown from the jump in front of the grandstand, and was rendered unconscious. Hall was riding Miss English. The horse brushed the jump, and landed with all four feet in the ditch, turning a somersault, and hurling the rider over her head. The mount doubled up, and lay still for a few seconds, but was able to regain her feet and so he was away.

Walker was removed from the track, and was later taken to the emergency hospital by Dr. Hulcher, of the city ambulance corps. Consciousness was soon restored, and he was said not to be seriously injured. Mrs. Walker witnessed the accident from the grandstand.

No Improper Shows.

Midway, more than usually free from improper shows, was alive with slow-moving folk and the sound of the tambourine and the speller's voice. Sharp sounds clashed in an unmusical medley, but the people hastened from one tent to the other, expecting to see the best fair in the East, and finding something good and worth seeing in all. Some of the show people had not yet arrived, but all who were in their places by noon to-day, and, with a few exhibits more to be placed, the fair will be in full swing, and there will be nothing lacking in what the fair management declares and is now showing to be the best fair held since the first half a dozen years ago.

Between and during the events set as the star attractions given free to the public, thousands of people streamed through the exhibits which they had come to see. The exhibits of the boys' club clubs and thirty-eight county exhibits attracted especial attention. King Court is still in his own domain, and finds a close second in tobacco. Notwithstanding the unusual dry weather, the fair